

7 March 2016

Agenda Item: 5

**REPORT OF THE ACTING SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS
AND INCLUSION.**

**SPRING TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER
CHILDREN**

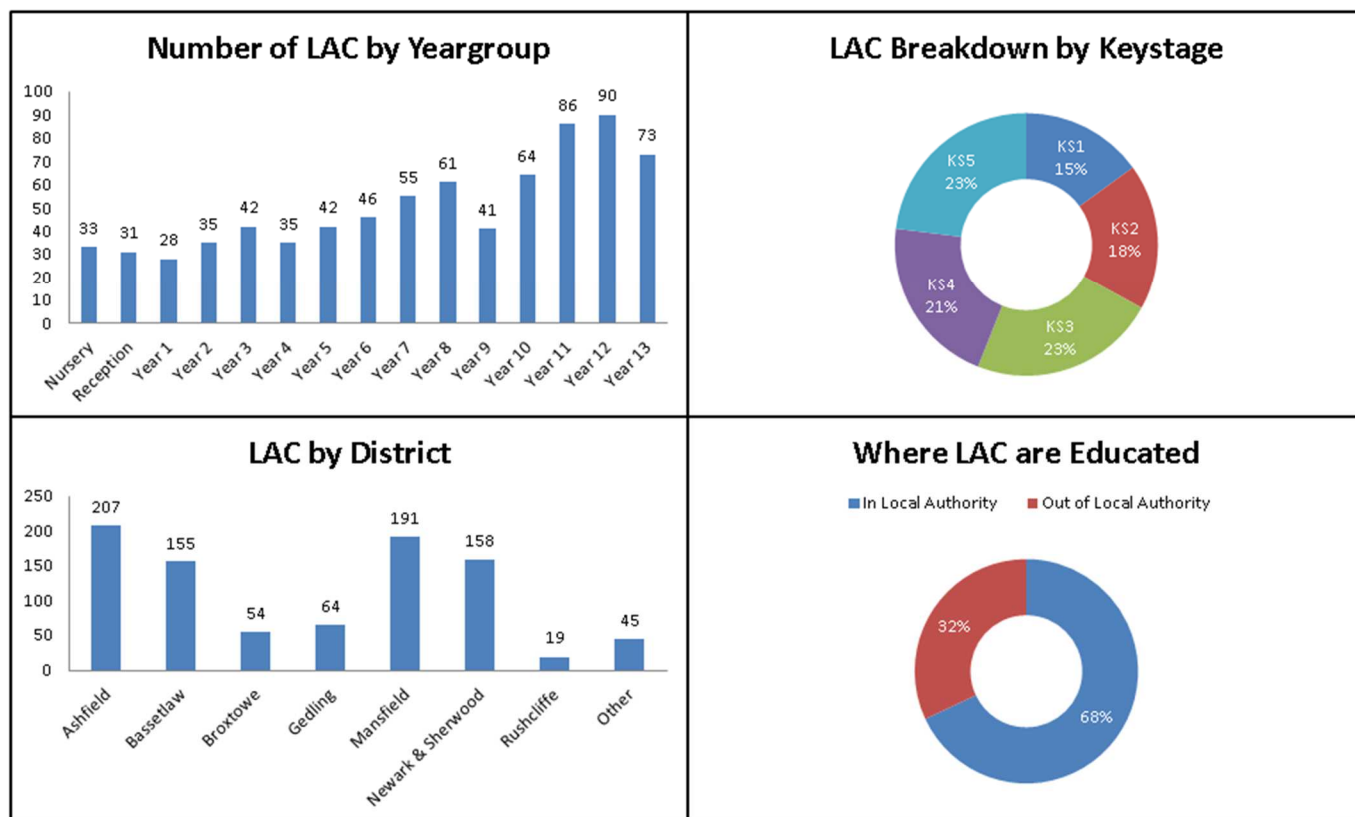
Purpose of the Report

- To update the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on the virtual school for the Spring term 2016.

Information and Advice

Virtual School

- The number of looked after children (LAC) in each Key Stage, Year Group, Residence & Educational Location is shown below. Nursery and reception numbers are now included within the table.



Early Years Foundation Stage Pupil Premium

3. From the financial year 2016-17, the early years foundation stage (EYFS) pupil premium will be issued to schools, settings and providers who have eligible looked after children attending. To facilitate the issuing, tracking and monitoring of the impact of the EYFS pupil premium, a new personal education plan (PEP) has been developed. This will be issued to the relevant social work teams ready for the start of the new financial year.
4. Work has begun with the early years team to ensure strong working links are created with the early years specialist teachers working with settings and schools. These teachers will support virtual school achievement officers where necessary to ensure children receive the correct support to catch up in the areas of the foundation stage curriculum.
5. The training for EYFS settings, provided by the virtual school using this current financial year's pupil premium funding, has been very well attended with very positive feedback. The training has focussed on the impact of early experiences and how settings and schools can support children to engage in their learning.

Attachment Aware Schools

6. Further partnerships of schools continue to contact the virtual school to consider undertaking the attachment awareness training. This training aims to ensure that staff are confident in meeting the needs of all children with attachment difficulties.

East Midlands Network

7. The East Midlands regional group has been approached by the Ofsted lead for inspection of residential children's homes. Two representatives will meet with the lead inspector and work collaboratively to ensure residential homes inspected have a strong focus on education of looked after children in addition to the care provided.

Social Care Links

8. The co-ordinator of the virtual school will be attending a team manager meeting for the through care team. This will be looking at the new PEP format and ensuring managers are confident with the completion of the document in order to support social workers.

Floor Target Schools and schools not yet good

9. The virtual school continues to monitor looked after children in below floor target schools. The table overleaf shows the number of schools in each phase with LAC against the latest Ofsted judgements.
10. It is not the Local Authority's practice to move LAC from their schools if that school moves from outstanding or good judgements, as this is unsettling and detrimental to LAC's progress. Therefore the virtual school will ensure that, should there be the need, the children/young people will have input from the LAC Achievement Officers to ensure their educational needs are addressed.

LA	PHASE	NONE/ UNK*	OUTSTAND	GOOD	REQ IMPR	INADEQ
Nottinghamshire	Primary	6	17	64	23	1
	Secondary	4	7	23	10	1
	Other	8	2	8	0	0
Other authorities	Primary	1	3	16	3	0
	Secondary	0	4	26	4	0
	Other	10	3	4	1	1
TOTAL		29	36	141	41	3

**Unknown School or Alternative Provision or Academy Convertors with no Ofsted Judgment to date.*

Further Education

- The Data Officer for the virtual school has now begun meeting with data officers in further education colleges to discuss the collation of data from those providers with looked after children. It is intended that, for the next academic year, a tracking system will be developed to support the virtual school to monitor looked after children in further education settings. This will be used to identify those at risk of not achieving their potential.

Higher Education Event

- The Council's virtual school in conjunction with the Nottingham City virtual school is working with Nottingham Trent and Nottingham Universities to set up a higher education day for looked after young people in years 9 and 10.
- This will be held in July and hosted by Nottingham Trent University in their Newton Building. Workers from Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire will be present to support looked after young people to experience taster sessions in varying subjects, meet student ambassadors and receive advice and guidance around finance and student life. It is hoped the day will raise aspirations and confidence levels around aiming for higher education goals. Along with young people and their teachers the invitation will be extended to carers.
- In the Autumn term of the academic year 2016-17, a primary school day will be held by Nottingham University on their campus to begin to raise aspirations. The Children in Care Council has been involved in agreeing this day and will be asked to look at the programme once it is available.

Good News

- Book tokens continue to be sent out to looked after children for a host of reasons including gaining most house points, making outstanding progress and sporting achievements.

Other Options Considered

16. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. This report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the update on the virtual school for the Spring term 2016 be noted.

Marion Clay

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Constitutional Comments

19. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SH 01/02/16)

20. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Autumn term report of the virtual school for looked after children – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 11th January 2016.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0775